

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action mailed January 28, 2004. Applicant affirms the election of Group I, claims 1-12. In that Office Action, Claims 1-12 were provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 101 as claiming the same invention as claims 1-12 of US Patent Application 10/302,750. As claims 1-12 have been canceled in US Patent Application 10/302,750, this provisional rejection is moot.

Claims 1-5 and 7-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 3,719,982 to Tindal in view of U.S. Patent 3,785,617 to Friedrich. However, claim 6 was noted as containing allowable subject matter. The subject matter of claim 6 has been incorporated in independent claim 1, and claim 6 has been canceled. Claims 1-5 and 7-12 are thus believed in condition for allowance. Claims 13-18 withdrawn from consideration have been canceled.

New claim 19 has been added to recite the advantage of the bolt mounting the collar to the rod so that the collar rotates relative to the rod while the collar and rod are passing through members in the mold. Such a feature is not shown in the prior art. In Tindal, the nose piece 54 is threaded to the base 53. However, the nose piece is clearly tightened to prevent motion relative the base 53 as the tendon or cable 14 of Tindal is threaded through the sheath 12. Permitting rotation of the collar relative to the rod is an important feature of the present invention as described on page 11 of the application. The rotation of the collar independent the rod accommodates the rotation of the strand as it is unwinds itself from the pack such that the rod need not rotate as well.


New claim 20 depends on claim 19 and recites the advantage of the passage in the collar through which the bolt passes being sufficiently larger in dimension than the bolt to permit limited misalignment of the axes of the rod and collar in both an angular fashion and a parallel fashion. This is an advantage when the apertures in adjacent mold members are misaligned and the rod and collar can move out of alignment to ease passage through the mold.

New claim 21 depends on claim 19 and recites the use of a tapered surface in the collar and a ground underside of the head of the bolt to facilitate motion between the rod and collar.

A petition for one month extension of time to respond to the Office Action is filed herewith. No additional fees are believed necessary for the proper filing of this Amendment. However, if any additional fees are necessary, including any additional extension fees under Rule 136, please withdraw such fees as are necessary from Deposit Account 50-1274(HAMI B2045).

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this application.

Respectfully submitted,



William R. Gustavson
Reg. No. 29,160
(972) 479-0903

Thompson & Gustavson, L.L.P.
9330 LBJ Frwy
Suite 1185
Dallas, Texas 75243
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